

## ABSTRACT

A communications system includes an internet protocol network, a calling modem and an answering modem configured to effectively handle network latency. The calling modem includes a timer storing a network latency value. The network latency value is compared to a network latency threshold. If the network latency <sup>threshold</sup> ~~value~~ is less than the network latency value, then a high speed modem connection is continued. If the network latency value is greater than the network latency <sup>threshold</sup> ~~value~~, then the high speed modem connection is terminated. In place of the high speed modem connection, a low speed modem connection is established. The calling modem is operable to transmit a modem connection selection signal for selecting a high speed modem connection or a low speed modem connection. The answering modem is operable to receive the modem connection selection signal.